

Attorney Docket No. 10139/04702

REMARKS

Claims 8, 22, 43 and 48-50 have been cancelled. Claims 1 and 23 have been amended. Thus, claims 1 - 7, 9 - 21, 23 - 42, 44-47 and 51 are now pending in the present application. No new matter has been added. The allowance of claims 25 - 39 and 44 - 46 is gratefully acknowledged. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are in condition for allowance.

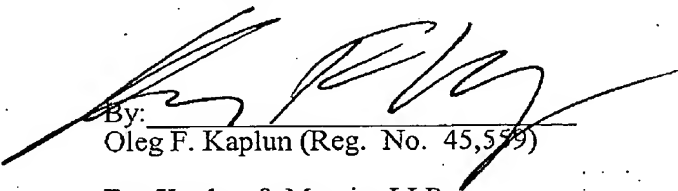
Claims 1 - 4, 6, 7, 9 - 21, 24, 40 - 42, 47 and 51 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Wack (U.S. Published Appln. No. 2002/0156474) in view of Kondo (U.S. Patent No. 3,779, 240) and claim 5 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Wack in view of Kondo, in further view of Schafer et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,572,622).

However, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 22 which stands objected to as dependent on a rejected base claim but which has been indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form incorporating all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. It is therefore respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable. Because claims 2 - 7, 9 - 21, 23 and 24 depend from and, therefore, include all of the limitations of claim 1, it is submitted that these claims are allowable.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable. All issues raised by the Examiner having been addressed, an early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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